THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Original)   A device for controlling a facsimile transmission of confidential information comprising:

a comparison unit adapted to allow transmission of confidential information to a far end if a near end comparison of a near end password with a far end password, results in a match.

2.   (Original)   The device as in claim 1 wherein the device comprises a facsimile machine.

3.   (Original)   The device as in claim 1 wherein the device comprises a PC modem.

4.   (Original)   The device as in claim 1 wherein the device comprises a chipset.

5.   (Original)   The device as in claim 1 wherein the device comprises a digital signal processor.

6. (Original) The device as in claim 1 further adapted to encrypt the confidential information.

7. (Original) The device as in claim 6 further adapted to PGP-encrypt the confidential information.

8. (Original) The device as in claim 1 further adapted to decrypt confidential information.

9. (Original) The device as in claim 1 further adapted to generate a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

10. (Original) The device as in claim 1 further adapted to generate a distribution request signal to prompt a far end user to enter distribution instructions.

11. (Original) A device for controlling a facsimile transmission of confidential information comprising:

a notification unit adapted to generate a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

12. (Original) The device as in claim 11 wherein the notification unit is further adapted to generate a distribution request signal to prompt a far end user to enter distribution instructions.

13. (Original) The device as in claim 11 further adapted to encrypt confidential information.

14. (Original) The device as in claim 13 further adapted to PGP-encrypt confidential information

15. (Original) The device as in claim 11 further adapted to decrypt confidential information.

16. (Original) The device as in claim 11 wherein the device comprises a facsimile machine.

17. (Original) The device as in claim 11 wherein the device comprises a PC modem.

18. (Original) The device as in claim 11 wherein the device comprises a chipset.

19. (Original) The device as in claim 11 wherein the device comprises a digital signal processor.

20. (Original) A method for controlling facsimile transmission of confidential information comprising:

comparing a near end password with a far end password at a near end; and

authorizing the transmission of confidential information from the near end to a far end if the comparison results in a match.

21. (Original) The method as in claim 20 further comprising encrypting the confidential information.

22. (Original) The method as in claim 21 further comprising PGP-encrypting the confidential information.

23. (Original) The method as in claim 20 further comprising decrypting confidential information.

24. (Original) The method as in claim 20 further comprising generating a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

25. (Original) The method as in claim 20 further comprising generating a distribution request signal to prompt a far end user to enter distribution instructions.